

Privilege

I am very sympathetic to this kind of thing. I was a very active student. I was finally kicked out of university, but I would like to say Mr. Speaker, that—

• (1530)

Mr. Speaker: I am reluctant to interrupt the hon. member.

[*English*]

Perhaps we need a motion right now.

Mr. Prud'homme: Well, Mr. Speaker, you may be surprised some day. We may be happy.

As a matter of fact, to make some of my colleagues very happy, the other gentlemen have talked about rumours on the Hill and I heard one at noon that something is going to change my life here by six o'clock. I am the only one who heard that, but rumours are rumours. I am still here, Mr. Speaker.

One thing that I do not want to be taken lightly is that over the years, it is known that my respect for the parliamentary institution has only grown and grown.

I would not like this to be considered as a light event. It is severe. Yesterday, it was a piece of paper, but tomorrow, it may be something else.

In good spirit, I wonder if Your Honour would not rather remind members of the seriousness of such an event taking place and to remind all members that at no time should we give any kind of encouragement for that kind of action. I assure you that I cannot accept that.

Some hon. members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Prud'homme: I know I may not be very popular by saying the following comment, but I am not at all happy with two of the events that took place in the other Chamber. I said so. I say it publicly. Reading a petition, and all that is fine, but two of the events that took place in the Senate will never meet with my approval.

The Speaker must remind us of what this House is all about. Because you have the golden occasion to talk to the country, from your chair, Your Honour, maybe the time has come for you to remind us what this Chamber is all about. If you judge that there is a *prima facie* case, I will abide by your rule. But I would prefer to listen to you, Mr. Speaker, take a few minutes to remind us what this institution is all about and the respect we should have for it.

[*Translation*]

—and then perhaps take a charitable view and forget what the students did yesterday.

[*English*]

As far as I am concerned though, instead of bragging about what took place yesterday, the hon. member should consult his own conscience. If he feels he is not at all responsible, fine. He will have a good conscience sleeping tonight. If he feels that maybe inadvertently he did encourage, then perhaps he should take the appropriate action.

As far as I am concerned, I do not think there is a good case. Your Honour, I think, should remind us of the seriousness of what happened yesterday, because I cannot accept that.

As to making a question referred to the appropriate committee, I think that Your Honour would like to reflect on it and not take that appropriate action. I just would not like it to be passed over without you reminding us of the seriousness of what took place yesterday, Mr. Speaker.

Perhaps we should beef up the security on the Hill. We have an extraordinarily good person to see to it. He, himself, will see to it.

We can feel sometimes when something is going to happen. We live in modern times. Some people may think that is the way to put their message across. It is not the way to put our message across.

Mr. Rod Murphy (Churchill): Mr. Speaker, the member who rose is not just an ordinary member of the House, although all members are equal in this House. He is the Parliamentary Secretary to the Government House Leader. I think that must be weighed in the nature of the charge and the responsibility that the government must take to the charges that were made.

A very serious accusation has been made against an opposition member in the House. The accusations were based on hearsay, on rumour, and on the basis of posters that are out there and, before those charges were made in the House, the parliamentary secretary failed to do the adequate research to make sure that he was not making a false charge.

I have checked with the Sergeant-at-Arms. He indicates that our party was not told that there was about to be a demonstration. Further to that, he has indicated to our whip that the government did not ask the Sergeant-